

**Christmas
2018**



Canadian Healer

OSL in Canada

The International Order of St. Luke the Physician



God so loved the world... (John 3:16)

WE LOVE BECAUSE...



1 John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us. (WEB)

This is one of my most favorite verses in Scripture! Though it only contains 8 words, I believe this one small verse describes the Christian life in its entirety. The only reason that we have any capability to love God is because He first loved us! God initiates and we respond. James 1:17 tells us that every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of Lights.

When we realize that He is the source of all good things and we are simply the beneficiaries of His kindness, it will change how we see the Christian life. No longer will we be 'trying' to earn His favor. No longer will we look to our own twisted expression of self-righteousness to justify ourselves in His sight. No longer will we try to compete with other brothers and sisters to get His attention.

The more that we realize that the Christian life is simply about us receiving what our Papa freely gives us, the less we will strive to earn what already belongs to us... His

unconditional love and acceptance! My prayer today is that the Holy Spirit would give us more revelation about the profound power found in today's Daily Reading.

We love because He first loved us. The only reason we can continue to love is because He is continuing to pour His love into our hearts! May we all cease from our own self-effort and sink deeper into the extravagant, eternal love that God has for us... right now.

1 John 4:9-10

9 By this God's love was revealed in us, that God has sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (WEB)

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JESUS LOVES YOU

Rev. Al Durrance

A lot of so-called evangelists try to use fear to bring people to Jesus; but the truth is that fear is not of God. It is of the enemy. Love is of God. He loves us as we are right now. There is no one who is an exception to that love. He did not die for just some special bunch of people. He laid down

His life for each one of us as well as for all of us.

Each one of us is precious to Him. He knows us all by name. He loves each one of us as a particular person and not simply some generality called love. He called you by name before He said, "Let there be light." and I

believe He said when He called us, "I love you."

LOVE IS NOT INDULGENCE

The question might be asked, "What does it mean for Jesus to love us? Does that mean that He will give us what we want?" No, that would not be love. That would be indulgence. That would be letting us be God so that we could tell Him what to do. Love is letting God be God, and letting us be His children.

The truth is that we don't really know what we want until we get it. There are many people who work hard all their lives and fail to get what they want. They will get what they *think* they want, and they will find out, that's not what they really want. "It is not what I thought it would be like at all." God knows our inward thoughts and feelings better than we do ourselves.

LOVE IS NOT BENEVOLENCE

We might ask, "Well if God loves us and knows what we really want, why doesn't He give it to us?" Love cannot be imposed on people. It must be received. That is one of the reasons why some people do not know that God loves them. Even if I know what is best for you, I cannot impose it and call it love. Love gives freedom to both the giver and the receiver.

If I impose on you what is best for your life, I take away your freedom to be a person. I make you a robot at best. Love must be offered by the giver and received by the one to whom it is given. That is the nature of life in the Kingdom of God.

LOVE IS FREELY GIVEN AND FREELY RECEIVED

Love is the way Jesus dealt with the people whom He encountered daily. He healed those who were willing to be healed. He didn't give them all that they thought they wanted, but He offered them the love that Father had sent Him to give us. That is the nature of God, Our Father. The love that we see incarnate in Jesus is Our Father's love.

The love God has for all of us is a love that comes to us and waits for us to open to Him. The prayer we need to pray is the One Jesus

taught us to pray. We pray to Our Father, who is in heaven, whose name is holy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's prayer is a prayer for the Kingdom to come so we might live in it now. Jesus told us it is at hand. As we see the power of God's love manifested in the world, He says, "Certainly the Kingdom of God has come upon you."

We pray to Our Father. He is not just mine, but He is mine. He is not just yours, but He is yours too. He is not bound up in time and space like we are. He lives beyond time and space, and His Name is Holy, and so we pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name."

We pray for His Kingdom to come fully revealed so we can see His love. We pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We pray for His love to come, to be given, to be received so that His will might be done, and we might all know what it is like to live in the presence of Our Father all the time, in love that sets us free to become all that we are meant to be.

We pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." That is not simply the bread that we eat to keep on keeping on in this life. That is the Bread of Heaven also that is our food and drink to grow up into the Kingdom, as we are fed heavenly food.

We pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgiveness is not just excusing someone for what they have done to us. It is accepting them as they are instead of as we expected them to be.

If we don't forgive them, we are bound to them, and they influence every decision that we make. We are not free to receive from God until we have released the grip that we have on those we refuse to forgive.

It sounds funny to talk about forgiving God, but the truth is that we get angry at God when He doesn't meet our expectations. It doesn't mean He has done something wrong. It means we were counting on something we didn't see. When we don't forgive God for not meeting our expectations, we are not able to

hear what He says to us, and we miss the Kingdom.

When we do forgive God, we can then ask Him for His Holy Spirit to come and lead us where He wants us to walk with Him. When we are obedient to Him as our King, we are living in His Kingdom now.

Until we know God's will for us, we cannot be tempted as Jesus was tempted because we only know the wisdom of the world. When we come to know God, we can be tempted to follow the wisdom of the world, and not God. We will be tempted and seek to follow the evil one, and miss the will of God for our lives.

When we see what we are praying, we can then pray from our hearts, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

And we come to know the love of God.



In Loving Memory
Following 30 years of ordained ministry, Rev. Al Durrance was elected Director of The International Order of St Luke the Physician from 1989 to 1994.



How Do We Do Christmas?

Rev. Al Durrance

One election year, I found that I was face to face with Christmas preparation, and I had almost missed Advent, which marks the beginning of the Christmas Season. I began to wonder about how I may celebrate Christmas that focuses on the holiday and not on the chaos with which many surround themselves with. This begs the question:

How does my buying gifts for the people who are going to buy me gifts express the Spirit of the One who has come into the world? How can the parties that fill up the time on my calendar express the Spirit of the Christ Mass?

How can the exhaustion that mark those who agonize over what to buy each person on their list express the Spirit of Christmas? Does buying gifts for others fulfill the true meaning of Christmas?

Or it is God "buying" for us what we cannot find for ourselves at any price in any store, and by doing so, we are given the perfect example of how we might participate in the season of Christmas.

If we can see that God has paid for a present that is given to the entire world, and one that we cannot afford, nor reciprocate by cash or credit. We are still able to reciprocate. He has given us the Life of His Son, that we might give Him our lives in return. There is an obvious inequity in the exchange.

He has given me more than I could ever afford, and I have given Him what He wanted when I made room for Jesus to be incarnate within my flesh. That must be the way He intends for me to celebrate Christmas in my own life.

On The Calendar



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Jan 20



Rev Nigel Mumford

What is your default?
*Moving from Negative
Thinking to Seeking First the
Kingdom of God.*

Feb 17



Rev Paul Feider
OSL NA President

Healing Unresolved Grief
First Online Chapter Launch

Mar 17



Rev John Gishler

Delivered from
Intellectualism, Liberalism,
and Denominationalism
Bondage

Wanted!

Would you consider sharing your story of healing to encourage others?

Please email to editor@oslCanada.org

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THE ROLE OF FAITH IN JESUS' HEALING MIRACLES

By Colin C M Campbell, PhD

In his healing miracles, Jesus brought the Kingdom of Life to those who were in a place of brokenness. The purpose of healing prayer is to take us from our place of brokenness to the Kingdom of Life.

Surprisingly, Jesus never demanded a formal declaration of faith or repentance before he healed. This fact is worth pondering!

Healing was a consequence of his love for those broken physically by disease and spiritually by the evil spirits. His presence was so terrifying to the demons that their malign influence could not stand in his presence. At the same time, it was so attractive to people that it melted the hearts of tax collectors, adulteresses, Romans and Samaritans, bypassing the need for a formal statement of faith or repentance.

This sheds light on a difficulty that has caused many to go astray in praying for healing.

It is a theological truism that our salvation and healing] is a gift, won by the finished work of Christ, alone. We do not add anything to it; not even our repentance or faith.

Some have misunderstood these words, objecting that they suggest that faith and repentance are not necessary. This would imply either antinomianism on the one hand, where we could be healed without repenting, or predestination on the other, where we are healed or not, without our participation.

The statements are not antinomian. The gift of repentance is necessary for forgiveness. Unrepented sin keeps us in the place of darkness, unable to enter fully into the



Colin Campbell was elected Vice President of OSL Canada at the first OSL Canadian

Kingdom of Life. Nor do the words imply predestination. The gift of faith and repentance is offered to all who are willing to receive it.

Both faith and repentance are necessary. However, a sound theology will realize that they proceed as a response of gratitude to receiving Jesus' love, not as a way to win that love.

Healing is God's promise to a broken world. Failure is due to our lack of trust in those promises due to doubt, fear or pride.

Success is not reached by our manufacturing faith and repentance, which only creates anxiety, but by allowing God to lead us into trusting him so that we are able to push through our doubts, fears and pride. Faith and repentance are a byproduct of our trust in and love for Jesus, not a means of obtaining them.

If we wish to see healing, then we must first return the Healer's love with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbour in the same way. Of course, it is only too easy to make the same mistake with love as we can make with faith. Loving Jesus is not a work that we do to earn his love. It is a grateful response to him loving us first.

This cannot be rushed but God promises that it will happen, if we allow him to have his way of love with us.

Let us praise God for the simplicity, profundity and purity of the Gospel's healing power, when it is correctly understood!

National Healing Conference in Winnipeg MB. He is a long time member of OSL, former President of The International Order of St Luke the Physician Board of Directors, and the current member for Canada on that Board. Colin is also Interim Director of OSL Region 8 (Ontario).

Dr Campbell is Convenor of the OSL Hamilton Chapter and a Secondary School Physics Teacher. Colin resides in Hamilton, Ontario, and may be contacted at ccmcampbell@gmail.com

HEALING GOES ONLINE FEB 17th!

By Colin C M Campbell, PhD

As mentioned in the September 2018 newsletter, I reported that some time ago, the speaker for an OSL Telephone Conference Call did not log in. He had muddled up the time zones. Our host, Keith Bird, received a nudge to use the opportunity to ask our listeners what they would like prayers for.

This was so successful that Keith and I kept the idea in mind and decided to try it again at another time in the future.

At a recent OSL Board meeting, I casually told the story. It was received enthusiastically and is now being adopted by the Board. Accordingly, we would like to launch the first OSL Online Chapter on Feb 17th.

Guest Speaker, Rev. Paul Feider – President, OSL NA Board of Directors - will teach on **Healing Past Hurts**. Keith and I will co-host.

It is hoped the online concept will meet the needs of OSL Members (past and present) who have no chapter to attend, and will attract anyone interested learning more about Christian healing ministry. One does NOT need to be a member to attend.

Thank you to all who responded to the recent survey! On Feb 17th we will be discussing survey results such as:

- the most popular day and time preferred for future chapter meetings...
- website technology that will allow for audio and video of the speakers...
- many new features like instant communication for prayer requests, and more.

Join the call and expect to be blessed by Paul's teaching and by a time of receiving prayer and praying for others. Your input regarding organizational details is welcome!

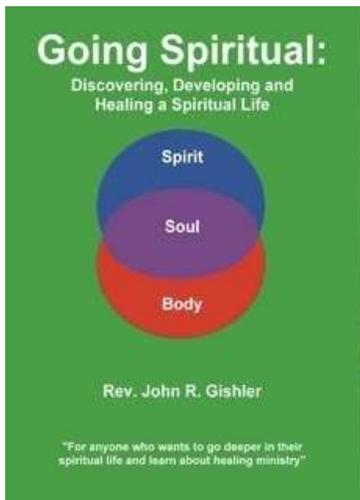
The February meeting will provide inspiration for launching new online chapters. If you are interested in taking a leadership role and would like more information to help with your decision, please send an email now to Keith at editor@oslCanada.org.

Please pray for this new adventure into healing. ***“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.” NASV***

OSL Telephone Conference Calls

Join the healing conversation – free long distance and login details at
www.oslRegion8.org/online.htm

Book Report



Going Spiritual:

Discovering, Developing and Healing a Spiritual Life

Rev. John Gishler

For anyone who wants to go deeper in their spiritual life and learn about healing ministry

Intended as a legacy to leave to his children and their families, *Going Spiritual* morphed into a chronicle of Deliverance and Christian healing. Much like enthusiasm and desire to share the joy of receiving Jesus as Saviour, John Gishler tells the story of his life before and after being delivered from Intellectualism, Liberalism, and Denominationalism.

The author shares how three crises drove him to desperately search the Bible, leading him to discover the Holy Spirit, experience healing miracles and the demonic. Wanting his family to be aware of the lure and perils of secularism, John provides much detail about of his journey, how he became aware that he was trapped, and how Jesus set him free. The book describes how his deliverance took place and how others can find healing and new life. Rev. Gishler describes steps to healing and shares the wisdom of recognized authorities on Christian healing. As well as a wealth of information on healing, this book is for anyone who wants to go deeper in their spiritual life and discover where they too may be stuck.

Going Spiritual is more than just about healing: it shines a brilliant spot-light exposing evil and a step-by-step road map out of bondage into freedom and lasting joy by depending on Jesus to deliver and transform. Jesus said, ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*** John 10:10 NIV

This book is quite a page-turner. Topics and chapter headings include:

- Becoming Who You Were Meant To Be;
- Spiritual Evil;
- The Fatal Flaw in Liberalism;
- Experiencing the Supernatural;
- Discovering Self-Deception, Mental Strongholds;
- Healing Wounds From Trauma: Slumbering Spirit, Sexual Abuse, The Spirit of Cancer;
- Delivering Prisoners From Sexual Bondage and Alcoholism;
- Homosexuality/Gender Confusion, Spirit of Slavery and Spiritual Depression.

John Gishler is a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. He is also Spiritual Director Emeritus for the Cursillo movement in Calgary. He and his wife, Lucille, are former library professionals and live in Calgary, where John serves as a trained Interim Priest for congregations in transition. An autographed copy of his book is available by contacting The Rev. John Gishler, 2211 Juniper Rd NW., Calgary, AB, T2N 3V3 jgishler@gmail.com for \$19.95, shipped free in Canada.

Fr John will be OSL Telephone Conference Call Guest Speaker on March 17, 2019

Renewing the Mind

By Jane Jones

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom. 12:2 NIV)

Time for a change! Why do we need to renew our minds? Romans 12:2 tells us so that we may prove for ourselves what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God for us who believe. We can know His will for our lives and in all situations.

Suppose others could read our minds? Wouldn't we make every effort to control our thoughts so that we were only thinking nice things? It says in Matthew 9:4 that Jesus knew what the teachers of the law were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil your hearts?" In a situation like that, we would likely be tempted to respond, "Well, we didn't say it out loud." We need to realise that even harbouring evil thoughts gives them a root in us and pollutes us.

The Way We Think Determines Our Walk

We are body, soul and spirit. The soul is our mind, will and emotion. When a thought comes into our mind, we make a decision whether to react with the flesh or the spirit. We choose our response, which means we can't blame the devil if we choose wrongly, even though he may have sent one of his fiery- darts to lead us astray. The choice is ours alone.

Our soul can operate like a teeter-totter. Depending on which side the heaviest weight is on, we can either be firmly anchored or helplessly waving our feet in the air, trying to get back on firm ground. Our mind is the deciding factor: do we go the way of the flesh or the way of the spirit?

Paul tells us in 2Cor.5:17 that in Christ we are a new creation, old things have passed away. However, letting go of the old is not easy. In some parts of our lives, we still cling to things of the flesh, and are reluctant to become the reality of our new status as a new creation. We are afraid to step out of our comfort zone. Paul says in Galatians 2:20: "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Our flesh does not like to be crucified!

John 3:6 says, "that which is born of the spirit is spirit and that which is born of the flesh is flesh."

So where do our thoughts spring from? Do they come from the Word which is spirit and life, or from the flesh which is death? Because we are a work in progress, our spirit is born again, but not our mind or our body. We are in a state of *progressive sanctification*, and we still have the same fears and attitudes which we need to work on.

Paul tells us in Colossians 3:2 to set our mind on things above not on earthly things, for we died and our life is now hidden with Christ. This is the believer's position in Christ. That is our *positional sanctification*. Then he goes on to tell us to "put to death therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature" (v5). The effort of putting aside our earthly nature is *progressive sanctification*.

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart, our soul and our mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. An important part of renewing our minds is to remove every thought that is not birthed in love. We cannot harbour resentment, hatred, envy or bitterness, because those things give the enemy access to our lives.

Paul tells us in Romans 8:29 that God's plan for us is to be conformed to the image of Jesus. In Philippians 2:12-13, Paul tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Positionally, we are sanctified through the blood, but *progressive sanctification* is becoming more Christ-like as we deal with things in our lives that don't glorify God.

We cannot have a slavery mindset like the Israelites in Exodus. They were still conformed to their old world; they still saw themselves as slaves. We can be enslaved to our old religious ways of doing things, bound to a ritual rather than a relationship. Our liturgy is life-giving when we allow the Holy Spirit to move through it, but when we approach it as mere (mindless) repetition we are not choosing life.

Many people never crossed into the Promised Land because they hadn't renewed their mind. God had taken them out of Egypt, but couldn't take Egypt out of them. That was up to them. God had given them the promises through Moses, but they didn't want to change. They had left Egypt physically, but they were still in bondage to their past. How many times does that happen to us? How often do we look back instead of pressing forward?

Before we knew Christ, our mind ruled. We were led by feelings and emotions. The battle of the mind begins in earnest when we ask Jesus to be Lord of our life. Our minds decide whether to

follow the voice of the spirit or the voice of the flesh. So if our mind is renewed with the Word, and it is strong in us, there is no conflict. We can go through the motions - listen to sermons, read the Bible, pray etc - but never change because we have not made the effort to renew our minds, or change our way of thinking. If I am still conformed to the world's way of thinking - the old way, the way of the flesh - how can I prove what the perfect will of God is for me? My old way of thinking hinders that.

Truth and revelation come with thinking God's way. And to think God's way, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. 2Cor.3:17-18 reminds us that, "The Lord is spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

The word "transformed" is the same as "transfigured." In Matthew 17:2: on the mount, His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as the light. The same word is used in Ephesians 4:22-24 (be renewed in spirit of mind), and in Romans 12:2 (be transformed by renewing of our mind). The common word in all these examples is *metamorpho*, which means to go through a complete change of form.



A butterfly develops its muscles through the process of metamorphosis, and we too become stronger as we push into change.

I am seeing a hunger and thirst for the deeper things of God in the body, so our minds need to be open to the things He wants to show us. We need to fill ourselves with the meat of the Word and become mature. He is saying: Church arise... and be that new creation, be those who 'turn the world upside down!' We need to leave behind the old things, the old way of thinking, and be transformed into a light in the world. In the midst of the darkness we see around us, we should be that beacon that attracts others to the light of Christ.

We don't know exactly where we are in God's time clock, but my sense is that it is later than we think. Here are two scriptures to ponder in this season:

1 Peter 5:8: Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (NLT)

Romans 13:11: This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (NLT)

There are many in the valley of decision who need to hear the Gospel of truth. It is about the harvest. Be transformed!

Jane Jones is the ARM Prayer Co-ordinator and a member of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Okotoks, AB.

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**Merry Christmas and
Every blessing in the New Year!**

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